

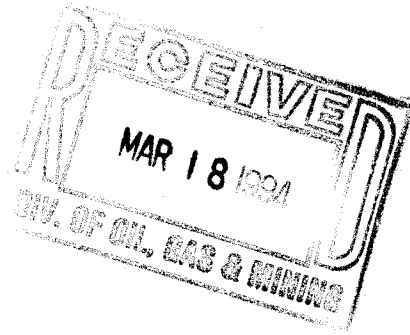


State of Utah

DEPARTMENT OF ENVIRONMENTAL QUALITY DIVISION OF WATER QUALITY

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March 15, 1994

Mr. Max H. Dodson, Director
EPA Region VIII, Water Management
Denver Place, Suite 500
999 18th Street
Denver, Colorado 80202-2466

RE: Mining Initiative

Dear Mr. Dodson:

This letter is to inform EPA of the strategy and status for Utah's mining initiative under the UPDES program. We have made preliminary identification and evaluation of the potential for acid mine drainage from large active metal mines in Utah. None of these are known to have acid mine drainage to surface waters of the State, largely due to the large quantities of carbonate rocks exposed at the mine sites, and the arid climate. The Division is making a concerted effort to keep exposed sulfide rocks at the active sites from degrading both ground water and downgradient surface water resources.

The mines identified are:

1. Kennecott Bingham Mine.
2. Kennecott Barney's Canyon Mine.
3. Barrick-Mercur Mine.
4. USMX-Goldstrike Mine.
5. Brush Wellman-Topaz.
6. North Lilly Mining Company-Tintic.

Each of these facilities should be inspected this year and an UPDES discharge permit required for all surface discharges to waters-of-the-State. USMX was inspected in October, 1993. A permit has been drafted which requires monitoring and reporting of surface discharges.

The Kennecott Bingham Mine has an UPDES discharge permit. The discharge of mine and process wastewater is required to meet a pH of 6.5-9.0. The acid leach water is collected and recycled. The Butterfield Tunnel is inactive and has a neutral pH. It may be included in a permit this year.

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The Kennecott Barney's Canyon and North Lilly-Tintic projects have been designed as no discharge facilities. Past inspections have not indicated any surface water problems.

The Barrick-Mercur Mine has an UPDES discharge permit, but has not discharged for several years.

If a surface discharge is observed it will be sampled and an UPDES discharge permit required. If necessary, appropriate enforcement will be taken.

If you have any questions regarding these activities please contact Steven McNeal at (801) 538-6146.

Sincerely,



Fred C. Pehrson, P.E., Manager
Permits, Compliance & Monitoring Branch

FCP:SRM:st

cc: Steve Burkett, EPA, Region VIII
Melanie Pallman, EPA, Region VIII
Wayne Hedberg, DOGM

P:MINE-INT.LTR
FILE:UPDES